

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims xx-52 will be pending. By this amendment, claims xx have been canceled; and 35-52 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Newly-added Claims 35-52

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that "detecting the orientation of a face of a human being" using conventional methods and systems is a very difficult task. *Page 2, lines 11-21 of the Specification.*

To solve this difficulty, embodiments of the present invention provide apparatuses and methods for generating a plurality of facial image templates for a plurality of face classes.

For example, the structure of apparatus claim 35, as presented herein, includes

“means for receiving an input facial image and a plurality of facial image templates, each facial image template of said plurality of facial image templates previously generated for each face class of said plurality of face classes;]

means for determining correlation between said input facial image and said each facial image template;

means for classifying said input facial image into one of said plurality of face classes based on the determined correlation between said input facial image and said each facial image template; and

means for generating said plurality of facial image templates representing orientations of said input facial images.”

(emphasis added)

Other independent claims 39 and 43 closely parallel, and include substantially similar limitations as recited in, above-recited independent claim 35. None of the cited prior art references teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 35, 39, or 43.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims xx-52 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

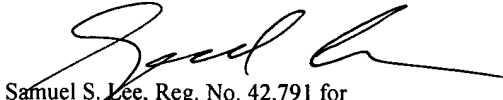
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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